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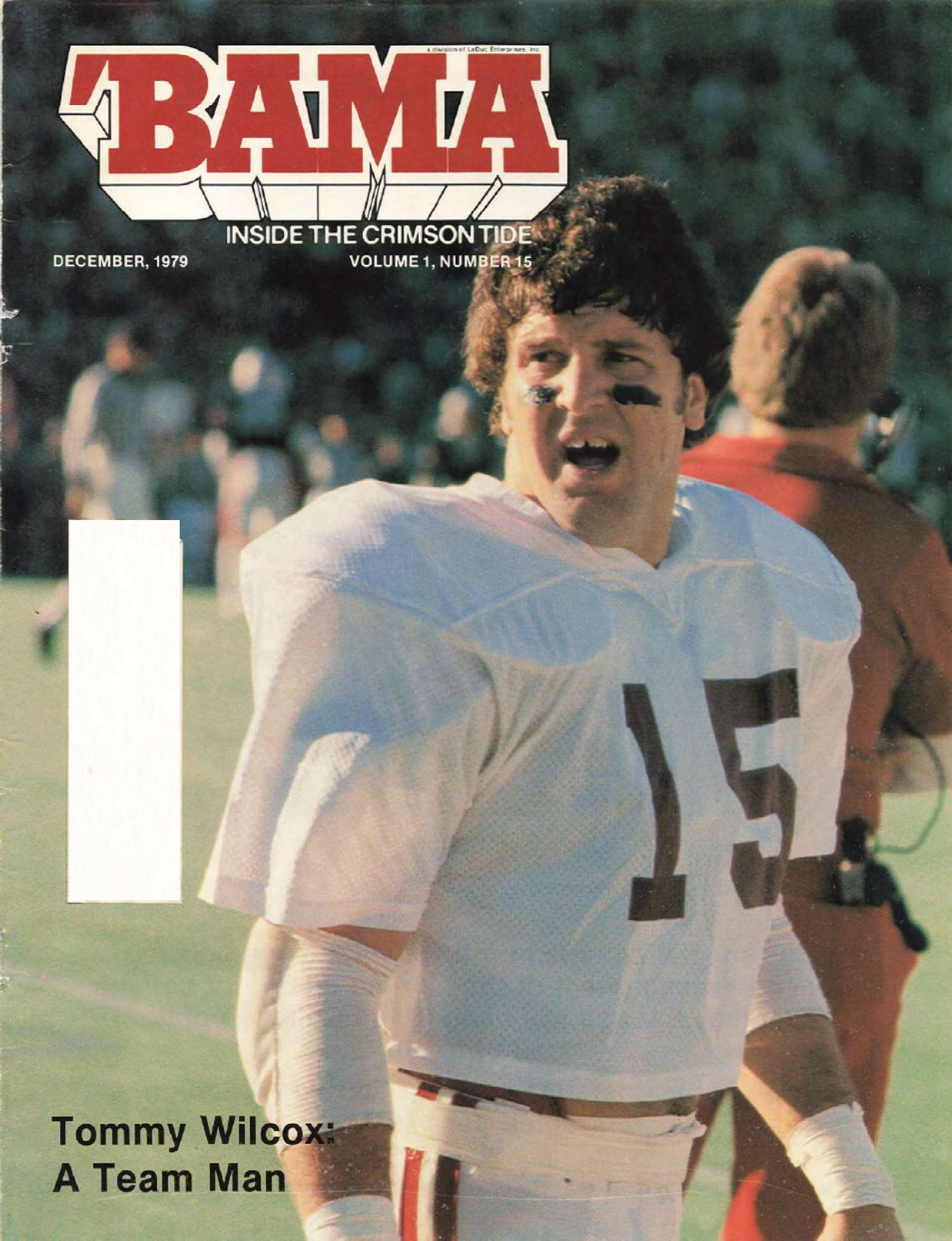
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

DECEMBER, 1979 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 15



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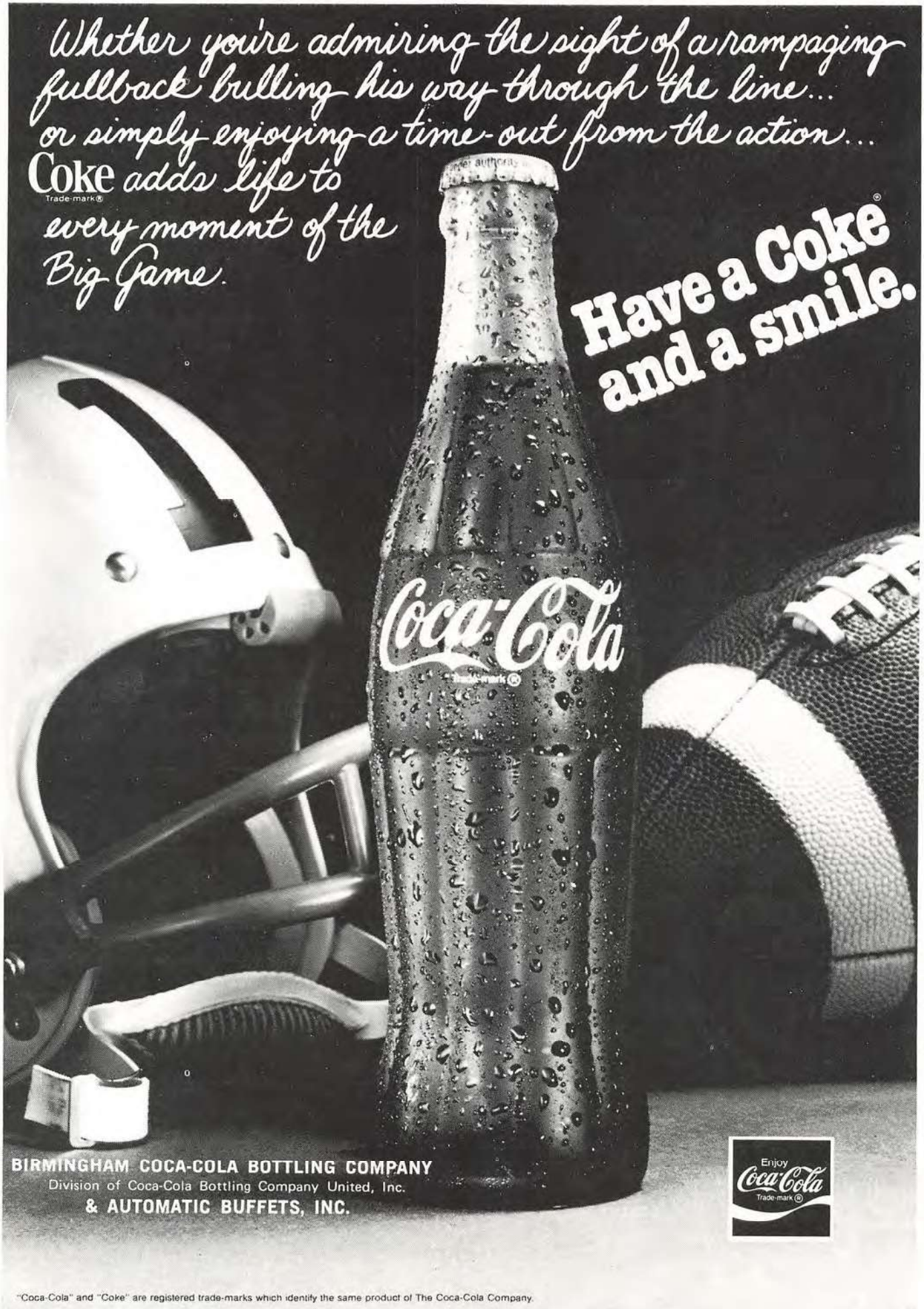
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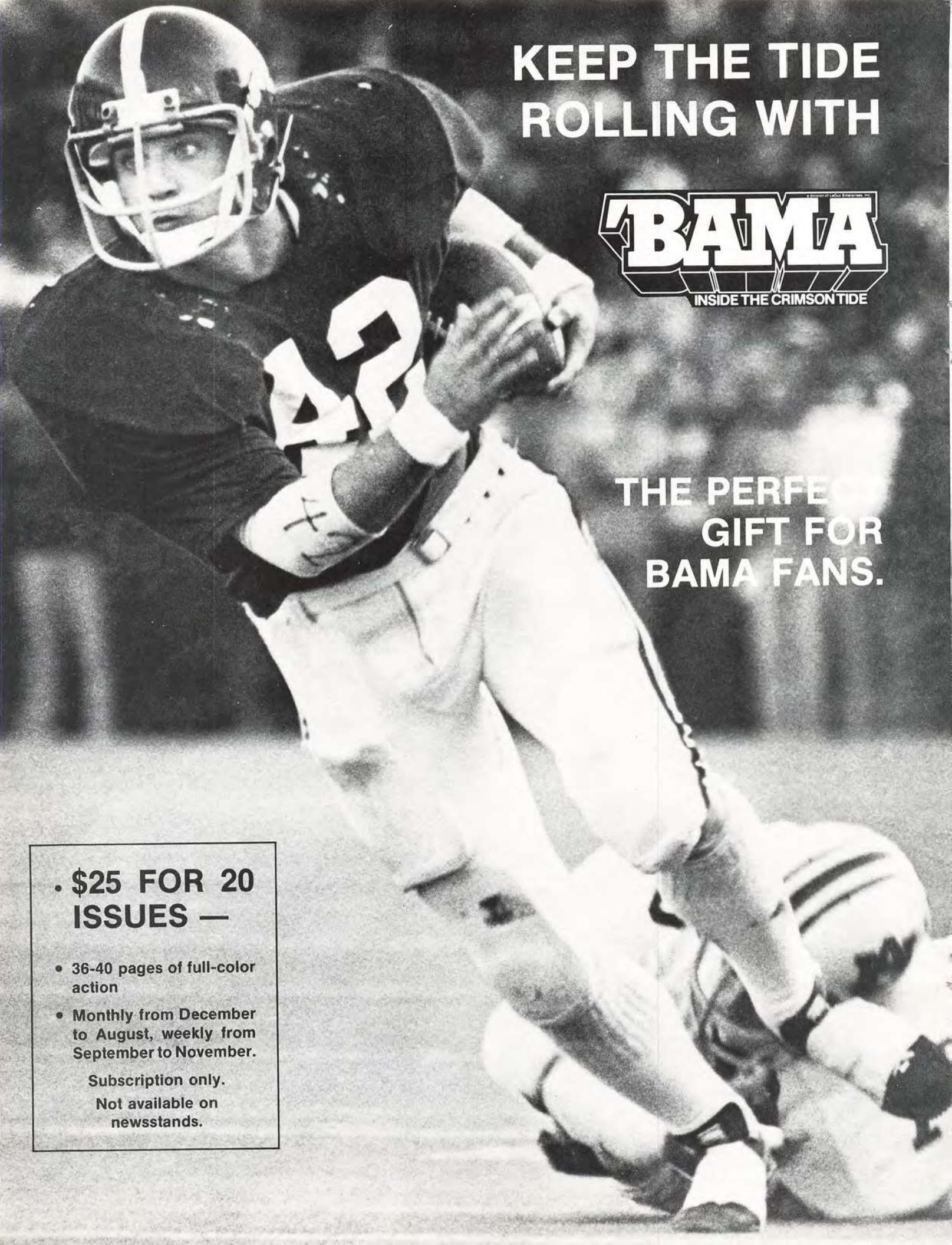
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Tide Meets Hogs In Sugar

by Kirk McNair

Number one is on everyone's mind as the first day of January approaches. The Crimson Tide is obviously hoping that January 1 brings a performance suitable to attain the national championship, as it did a year ago.

The nation's number one coach, Paul Bryant, feels that if Alabama defeats Arkansas in the Louisiana Superdome's Sugar Bowl game in New Orleans the polls will take care of themselves. The nations's number one one-liner football coach, Lou Holtz of Arkansas, feels as most Bama fans that it's a travesty the Crimson Tide is not going into that game as the consensus top-ranked team.

Following last year's bowl games the United Press International poll of college coaches earned the wrath of Bama followers for jumping Southern Cal over the Tide in the final balloting after having Bama ahead of the Trojans for several weeks. This year, showing that inconsistency is not the private property of UPI, the Associated Press poll of sportswriters and sportscasters thrust Ohio State on top of Alabama going into the bowl games, thus setting up a likely national championship game in the Rose Bowl, number one Ohio State against number three Southern Cal.

Is Alabama the nation's best football team? Without a national championship playoff there's no way to know for sure, but the general rule in past polls has been that the top team stays on top until beaten. The notable exception to that, as all Alabama fans are aware, was in 1966.

The manner in which Bama was demoted in the AP poll makes the verdict hard to swallow. Eight of the "expert" voters did not put Alabama in the top three. One put Alabama fifth and another came about as close as he could come to having his vote thrown out by putting the Tide in a tie for fifth. With Alabama having the nation's longest winning streak and being ranked among the nation's top teams in all offensive and defensive statistical categories except passing offense it would appear that some factor other than logic affected some of the AP voters as regards that poll's defending national champion.

It will probably take an auspicious performance by Alabama in the Sugar Bowl and a lackluster Rose Bowl game to put Bama back on top in the AP poll, assuming that some of the AP voters who put Alabama down in the most recent voting don't reverse themselves on the final ballot. There's still the chance that Bama could emerge number one if the Tide gets some of the top votes that have gone to Ohio State or Southern Cal, whichever loses the Rose Bowl. There's a tendency to think that the winner of the Rose Bowl will get all the first place votes, but that's not automatic. And Bama did have a healthy lead in first places in the last poll.

Alabama will not be at full strength for the Sugar Bowl, but the Tide should be in better shape physically than in some time. Bama took a week off following its victory over Auburn, then had a week of routine workouts around final examinations before breaking December 15. The players were to report back on December 20 and go to New Orleans the afternoon of December 28. Team headquarters is The Fairmont.

Don Jacobs will not play in the game.

Left, Alabama quarterback Steadman Shealy has made the wishbone go this season with his ability to run as well as pass. His quickness has eliminated opposing teams from keying on any one member of the backfield. Right, sophomore linebacker Thomas Boyd has proven this season that greatness has no age limitations. Although in just his second season, Boyd is already being mentioned with a host of former Alabama greats.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

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His shortlived comeback try against Auburn resulted in ligament damage to his knee. He underwent surgery in Atlanta (by a specialist who has had particular success in repairing the type injury Don suffered) and is not expected to be ready for the quarterback battle this spring.

Ricky Tucker, who missed the Auburn game with an ankle injury, is expected to be full-speed again for Arkansas. That gives the secondary much more depth, since Ricky can play at both cornerback and safety. It also means that Jim Bob Harris can be used at strong safety if Tommy Wilcox has to be pressed into duty at quarterback.

Wilcox will get work at quarterback for the Sugar Bowl, but Alan Gray will be Steadman Shealy's backup man.

Those who have been playing with bumps and bruises, notably Major Ogilvie, should benefit from the month-long break between games.

Arkansas, which has a later examination schedule (December 13-21), was to work all the way through December, going to New Orleans on December 26.

The Razorbacks provide formidable opposition for Bama. Coach Holtz is completing his third year as head coach at Arkansas and the Hogs have a 30-4-1 record over that period, the first time in Arkansas history that the Razorbacks have won 30 games over a three-year period. One of the most amazing things about that three-year record is that Arkansas has been in the lead in the fourth quarter in 34 of those 35 games.

Here are some remarks from coach Holtz regarding his team's 10-1 season:

"The 1979 season is over. The bowl game is a separate season. We'll either win 'em all or lose 'em all.

"I believe this team can play with anyone in the country. We're the only team to have won 10 games without our opponents ever conceding we won.

"When I say we're a team without stars, that doesn't mean we have average players. We just don't have any one player who is great every game. We believe in the team concept first. As a result, we probably won't have as many all-conference players as we deserve.

"When Kevin Scanlon graduates, we'll lose a great quarterback, and I mean a great one.

"All along I've said this team is something special. All year we've been

Above, Arkansas quarterback Kevin Scanlon takes off on the option while bodyguard George Sewart prepares to cut down the opposition. Below, when Arkansas' powerful offense bogs down for some reason, All-Southwest Conference placekicker Ish Ordonez comes on.

the hunter. Before the season I asked myself whether or not 8-3 would be a good enough record to accept. I decided, no, I'd rather play our schedule than accept 8-3 before we started.

"In 1960 John Kennedy was asked whether he would accept the nomination of vice president. He said, 'Once you settle for second place when first is available, you will do it the rest of your life.' After two straight years of finishing second in the Southwest Conference, it's rewarding to share a championship."

Arkansas tied for the Southwest Conference title with Houston. Because Houston defeated Arkansas the Cougars received the Cotton Bowl bid. Before that weekend's games had been played, Holtz was asked if he would prefer to play Alabama than go to the Cotton Bowl. "I'd rather they invite New Hampshire wherever we play," he answered. However, during the season he let it be known that he hoped Arkansas would end up in exactly the position it is: tied for the league championship and playing Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

While Holtz says his team is a team without stars, quarterback Kevin Scanlon is certainly the stuff of which stars are born. His .662 pass completion percentage is a school record. He completed 92 of his 139 passes for 1,212 yards and nine touchdowns. He suffered only six interceptions. Additionally, he ran for 248 yards and seven touchdowns.

There are obviously others at Arkansas who are top-flight football players. One who will not be playing against Alabama is running back Thomas Brown of Montgomery. Brown signed a Southeastern Conference letter-of-intent with Alabama following his 1977 prep season, then was lured to Arkansas by former Tide defensive end and assistant coach John Mitchell, now a member of the Arkansas coaching staff. Brown was outstanding as a freshman, particularly on kick returns, but suffered an injury in the second game of this season and has been held out on a hardship redshirt.

However, that doesn't mean that Bama can breathe a sigh of relief. Gary Anderson, a 185-pound freshman, has moved into the number one running back spot and was named Southwest Conference Newcomer of the Year. He set a school record by returning 34 punt for 286 yards. Anderson also returned 16 kickoffs 343 yards, an average of 21.4 yards per return.

Arkansas' overall kicking game is outstanding. Junior placekicker Ish Ordonez completed the season with 80 points. He fell one short of the Arkansas field goal record with 18, making them in only 22 attempts. His career field goal percentage is .756 (31 of 41). Steve Cox is something of a surprise as a punter. He came to Arkansas as a placekicker, but beat out returning punter Bruce Lehay (who averaged over 40 yards per punt last year) and Cox has averaged 43.8 yards per punt this year.

Arkansas uses two wide receivers and two running backs. Senior Roland Sales finished as Arkansas' leading rusher, but he also finished as the number two fullback. Sales had 625 yards on 138 rushes, averaging 4.6 yards per carry.

Freshmen held down the two running

A wishbone offense needs a big, strong fullback and senior Steve Whitman has provided the Crimson Tide with just that this season.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

positions. Anderson at running back and Darryl Bowles (5-11, 185) at fullback. Bowles ended up with 74 rushes for 404 yards, Anderson 77 rushes for 438 yards. Sales backs up Bowles and James Tolbert (6-0, 198, soph) is behind Anderson.

The wide receivers are Robert Farrell (6-5, 191, senior) and Gary Stiggers (5-9, 170, junior). Farrell set an Arkansas career record averaing 18.8 yards per reception, including a 19.1 mark this year. Stiggers actually had more receptions, 23 to 21, but Farrell had 401 yards to Stiggers 221. Bobby Duckworth plays behind Farrell, Derek Holloway behind Stiggers.

Arkansas doesn't pass to its tight end often, but as is frequently the case the tight ends are effective when they do catch the ball. Starter Steve Clyde has seven catches for 63 yards, backup man Darryl Mason 11 for 188.

As Alabama, Arkansas lists its greatest strength as its offensive line. Only center Tom Ginn, who took over for the injured Mike Burlingame, is not a returning starter. Top lineman is All-America tackle Greg Kolena (258), but tackle Phillip Moon (252) and guards George Stewart (252) and Chuck Herman (242) have all started for at least two years.

Arkansas gave up more yards rushing (2,162) than the Hogs have surrendered since 1973, but the Razorbacks still rank among the nation's best in scoring defense. The Hogs allowed only 9.8 points per game in 1979 and only two opponents—Texas and Baylor—scored two touchdowns against the Porker defense. With Alabama having allowed only 5.3 points per games, leading the nation in scoring defense, one might surmise that the 1980 Sugar Bowl game is going to have its second straight defensive struggle.

The Arkansas defensive front is not particularly big, but has been very effective. The linebackers for the Hogs have good size and speed, as do the secondarymen.

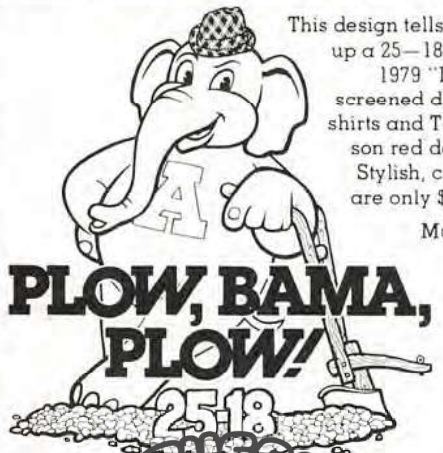
The ends, who are coached by former Tide player and assistant John Mitchell, are Jim Howard (218), a returning starter, and Jeff Goff (200), who was a cornerback last year and made the switch to end.

Billy Ray Smith (217), a freshman, and Jim Elliott (239), a top backup man last year, moved into the tackle spots that were decimated by graduation last year. The noseguard is 234-pound Alfred Mohammed, who moved ahead of expected starter Stan Freeman.

The linebackers are the leading tacklers for the defense, but surprisingly one of the co-leaders—Mike Massey—is a backup man to the other co-leader, Teddy Morris. Both have been in on 84 tackles from their strongside position. The weakside linebacker is Ozzie Riley. All are in the 215-pound range.

Arkansas did a great deal of shuffling to come up with the secondary that will start against Bama in New Orleans. One cornerback, Kim Dameron, was not even on the pre-season roster for the Hogs. The other cornerback is Ronald Matheney, an outstanding freshman who beat out returning starter Hugh Jernigan. The strong safety is Arkansas' answer to Tommy Wilcox, gutsy converted quarterback Randy Wessinger. The free safety, Kevin Evans, is a returning starter and the leading tackler, interceptor and pass deflector for the Razorbacks.

Arkansas' first team All-Southwest Conference selections were safety Kevin Evans, punter Steve Cox, wide receiver



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Robert Farrell, offensive tackle Greg Kolenda, offensive guard George Stewart, quarterback Kevin Scanlon and placekicker Ish Ordonez.

Alabama also had its share of honorees this year. Jim Bunch was named first team All-America by the Associated Press and Kodak, Don McNeal by The Sporting News and NEA, and Dwight Stephenson by Football News. Ten different Tiders were named first team All-SEC by the Associated Press and United Press International—Bunch, Stephenson, Mike Brock, David Hannah, E.J. Junior and Thomas Boyd by both, Major Ogilvie and Jim Bob Harris by UPI and Steadman Shealy and McNeal by AP.

Additionally, five Tiders were chosen second and third team All-America by the AP behind Bunch—Brock, Stephenson and Junior to the second team, Boyd and McNeal to the third team.

Shealy, additionally, was named a winner of a National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame award at its New York banquet, recipient of an NCAA post-graduate scholarship.

Regardless of the outcome of the polls for national champion, Bama is assured of its 24th top ten finish since the polls were begun in 1936, including a ninth straight position in that group.

Veteran observers of such believe that tickets for this year's Sugar Bowl game will fall into the normal bowl pattern of being plentiful in New Orleans. Last year, of course, that was not the case, and as of this writing they have not been easy to come by.

Alabama followers have come to know New Orleans well, particularly in this decade as the Tide is making its fifth trip to the Crescent City in the 1970s. However, all that is red in New Orleans this New Year's will not be Bama. Red is the dominant color of the Razorbacks, also.

The SEC representative serves as the host team for the Sugar Bowl, so Bama will be in red jerseys, Arkansas in white.

Should Alabama win the Sugar Bowl and somehow still finish second in the polls it would be the fifth year in this decade for the Tide to be bridesmaid, although some of those finishes were determined with bowl results not included.

And that brings up the matter of what worries Alabama followers. The 1966 season, when Bama went 11-0 and finished third behind tying Notre Dame (with only nine wins) and Michigan State, has been mentioned. In 1974 Bama had one loss by two points and finished second to Southern Cal, which had a tie and a 15-point loss to Arkansas. In 1975 the 11-1 Tide finished behind Oklahoma, which had been destroyed 23-3 by Kansas. And of course in 1977 Bama was 11-1 and second going into the final polls (and bowls) and was leapfrogged by Notre Dame. Notre Dame that year lost to Ole Miss, the SEC's ninth place team.

Food for thought.

Five Tiders have been selected to participate in this year's Senior Bowl in Mobile for the South team which will be coached by former Tide star and current New York Giants coach Ray Perkins. Bama representatives in the most prestigious all-star game for future professionals (pro scouts make the selections of players) are defensive back Don McNeal, defensive tackle David Hannah, center Dwight Stephenson, fullback Steve Whitman and offensive tackle Buddy Aydelette, who is from Mobile.

The Senior Bowl is run by Rea Schuessler, a former Alabama sports information director who has carried on this year despite a tough battle against illness.

Alabama and Georgia Tech are considering the possibility of playing next season's opening game in Japan, a week earlier than the scheduled September 13 date. Whether the game is played in Japan or not, the timing of the announcement—the week before signing of SEC letters-of-intent—was almost certainly beneficial to recruiting.

1979 Cumulative Statistics

Arkansas has one of the most balanced offensive teams that Alabama has ever seen. The Razorbacks pass about one play out of four and average over five yards per play.

	BAMA	ARK
TEAM OFFENSE		
Rushes attempted	763	586
Yards gained	4053	2658
Yards lost	261	230
Net yards gained	3792	2428
Avg. gain per rush	4.9	4.5
Touchdowns	38	17
Passes attempted	112	191
Passes completed	56	122
Passes intercepted	8	9
Percentage	.500	.639
Total yards	923	1563
Touchdowns	6	1
Total Yards	4715	3991
Total yards	843	836
Avg. gain per play	5.4	5.1
Avg. gain per game	428.6	362.8
Total first downs	263	210
TEAM DEFENSE		
Rushes attempted	393	519
Yards gained	1436	2549
Yards lost	315	387
Net yards gained	1121	2162
Touchdowns	2	7
Passes attempted	218	220
Passes completed	78	103
Passes intercepted	25	13
Percentage	.358	.468
Total yards	860	1280
Touchdowns	5	4
Total yards	1981	3442
Avg. gain per play	3.2	4.7
Avg. pain per game	180.0	312.9
Total first downs	106	183
PUNTING		
Number	43	55
Yards	1580	2243
Avg.	36.7	40.8
Longest	70	63
FUMBLES/LOST	40/18	21/13
PENALTIES/ YARDS	44/340	39/271

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE

Rushing	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
(BAMA) Shealy	152	791	5.2	9	64
(BAMA) Whitman	126	653	5.2	3	22
(BAMA) Ogilvie	97	512	5.3	9	26
(BAMA) Hill	59	327	5.5	3	24
(ARK) Sales	138	625	4.6	3	22
(ARK) Anderson	77	438	5.7	46	
(ARK) Bowles	74	413	5.5	2	57

Passing	PA	PC	PI	YDS	%	TD
(BAMA) Shealy	81	45	5	717	.556	4
(BAMA) Jacobs	22	10	2	193	.434	2
(ARK) Scanlon	139	92	6	1212	.662	9
(ARK) Jones	51	29	3	358	.569	2

Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Pugh	25	433	17.3	2
(BAMA) Travis	7	150	21.4	2
(BAMA) Clark	5	79	15.8	0
(BAMA) Marks	4	118	29.5	1
(ARK) Farrell	21	401	19.1	1
(ARK) Duckworth	14	314	22.4	3
(ARK) Stiggers	23	221	9.6	1

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

Tackles	Solo	Assisted	Total
(BAMA) Boyd	67	25	92
(BAMA) Scott	44	12	56
(BAMA) Hamilton	28	24	52
(BAMA) Junior	41	11	52
(BAMA) Wilcox	34	15	49
(ARK) Morris	59	25	84
(ARK) Massey	46	38	84
(ARK) Elliott	51	31	82
(ARK) Evans	36	25	61

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Wilcox	4	15	3.7	0
(BAMA) Tucker	4	15	3.7	0
(BAMA) R. Jones	3	18	6.0	0
(BAMA) McNeal	3	12	4.0	0
(BAMA) 10 others	11	113	10.3	1
(ARK) Evans	4	54	13.5	0
(ARK) Wessinger	2	46	15.3	0
(ARK) Massey	3	39	13.0	1

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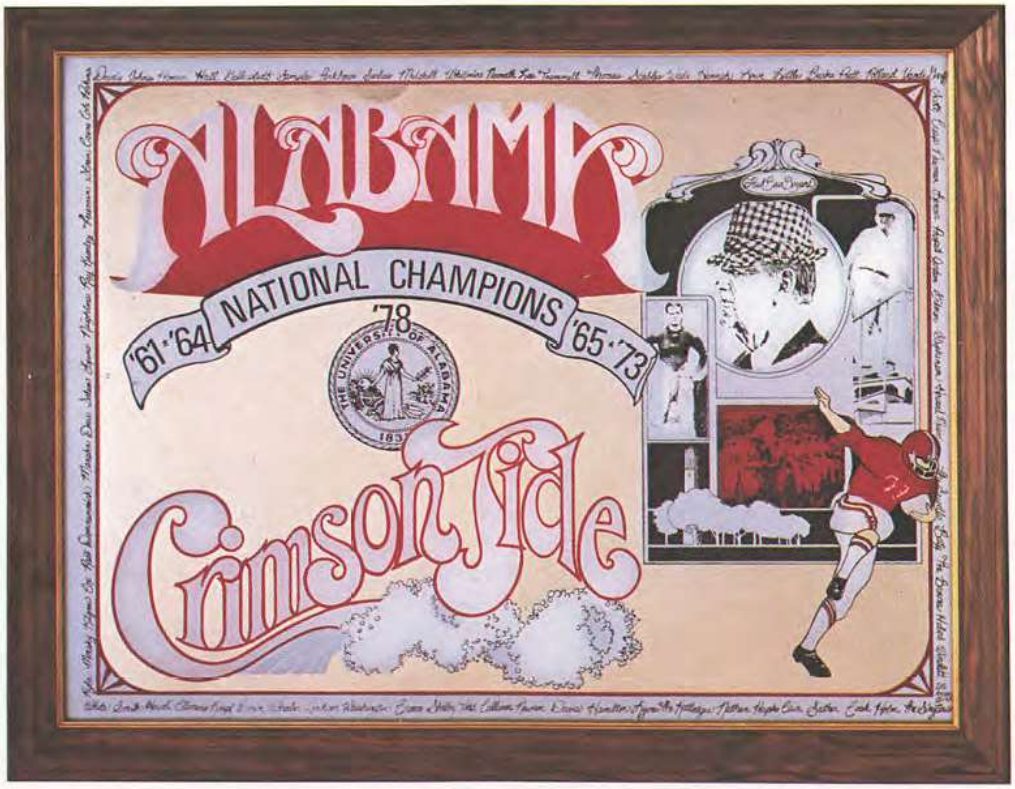

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A Team Man All The Way

by Kirk McNair

Tommy Wilcox came about as close as a man could come to not having been a part of this year's Alabama football team. The fact that he is playing for the Crimson Tide is a great source of comfort for everyone involved in Bama football, but no one is happier about it than Tommy.

"Sometimes I'll be thinking about how I almost didn't come back to this team and I realize how close I came to making a lifelong mistake," says Tommy. "The team was great. They all said they were happy to have me back. After I got everything straightened out it was as if it had never happened."

Tommy had a bad summer of personal problems, including being academically short of being eligible for football and feeling an obligation to find a job to help support his mother. But Mom insisted he finish his education, an interim term of intense study got him eligible, and now he's patrolling the Bama secondary as an outstanding strong safety.

He came to Alabama as an outstanding quarterback prospect. Last spring he spent most of his time under center. However, when he came back in the fall he had the double jeopardy of a bad ankle and his academic problems. Alabama coach Paul Bryant felt that a backup quarterback to Steadman Shealy had to be developed in a hurry. Because it was not known if Wilcox would be available and because he was missing about half practice time to go to class, his quarterback work ended. When injuries hit the quarterback corps in midseason, Tommy began to get a little work at the old position.

"I'm keeping my hand in it," he says. "I know the offense. I felt that I had a good spring at quarterback, although I didn't have a real good day in the spring game. I just messed myself up for quarterbacking this year. However, everything has worked out for the best. Steadman, Don (Jacobs) and Alan (Gray) have done well and I'm happy in the secondary."

Tommy is the result of the short-lived NCAA rule that allowed the redshirting of freshman in 1978. A freshman ineligibility, he will have almost two years of experience as he goes into the Sugar Bowl against Arkansas.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

All of Tommy's work has not been in the secondary. Against MIssissippi State the Tide ran out of quarterbacks temporarily. Gray was out with a pulled muscle, Jacobs had suffered a knee injury and Shealy had injured a wrist. Wilcox got the call to the thrill of Bama fans. He was only in three snaps, one of them a peanlty on the first play (a common occurance when quarterbacks with new cadence come into a game) and one of them a nice keeper.

Coach Bryant said later that Wilcox would get a shot at quarterback again this spring "if he wants it." Tommy says "If I get a shot at quarterback in the spring I'll take it, but I'm happy where I am. I want to play wherever coach Bryant thinks that I can help the team. I'm just grateful to be able to contribute."

Tommy's attitude, he feels, is typical on the Crimson Tide team. And he also feels that it's a primary reason for Bama success. "I really think the biggest reason for our success, other than coach Bryant, is that there is absolutely no jealousy on the team. There's no interest in individual glory. Everyone just tries to help each other out. You have to play as a team and we work hard at playing together. And anyone can see that team play pays off.

"The defense is a good example. The front people are doing such a good job of playing the run that the secondary can concentrate on the pass. When it is pass we're getting a great rush from the front men and the linebackers are able to either blitz or help with coverage."

There's no secret about the Alabama goal defensively in each game. "We want the shutout," says Tommy. "Every week we remind each other at practice that if the opponent doesn't score they can't beat us. We have to think about what we have to do against each team to put a goose egg on them. And, of course, it changes with every team we play."

Tommy has a favorite experience this year, the interception he made in the end zone against Virginia Tech. Tech coach Bill Dooley called it one of the greatest individual plays he had ever seen. But that's not why it's Tommy's favorite. "Actually, I was beaten a little on the play, but the quarterback underthrew it just enough for me to get a hand on it." Tommy bounced the ball into the air, then caught it as he spun, falling into the end zone. "The reason it was important," he explains, "is that the score was nothing to nothing and it looked like they were going to score. When we stopped them it took the pressure off the offense. We don't want the offense to think they are going to have to worry about the defense having problems."

It should come as no surprise that his favorite game of the year was the LSU contest. Someone had rigged a sign above the visitors' entrance to Tiger Stadium saying "Welcome Home Tommy WIlcox." LSU students live in the stadium and one was hanging out his window with a broom trying to knock down the sign until he was threatened by Bama fans standing below. "It was good to go back and play in front of a lot of friends and family, and against a lot of friends, too," says Tommy. "When you're from out of state and go back home to play it's very important to win. I'm going to be back in Louisiana this summer and I don't want to have to listen to any bragging."

One of the best things about Tommy Wilcox is that he has three more years of eligibility remaining, having been redshirted in 1978 under the shortlived NCAA rule permitting that practice. "At first it was rough," remembers Tommy of being held out in his freshman year. "You've been playing so long and all of a sudden you're not playing. But along about midseason, I realized that I was going to have picked up an extra year of eligibility with a year's experience. Realistically, I couldn't have expected to have played much as a freshman. So, it became a positive situation in my mind and now that it's over it's really good."

Wilcox came to Alabama in one of the most interesting recruiting scuffles of 1977. He and John Fourcade were making weekly headlines with their play in the New Orleans area (Tommy is actually from suburban Harahan). Tommy had somewhat better statistics and also led his team to the state championship as a senior. Alabama was recruiting both Wilcox and Fourcade. "We really didn't know each other," says Wilcox. "He called me one time and asked me where I was going and I told him I was going to stay in the Southeastern Conference, pro-

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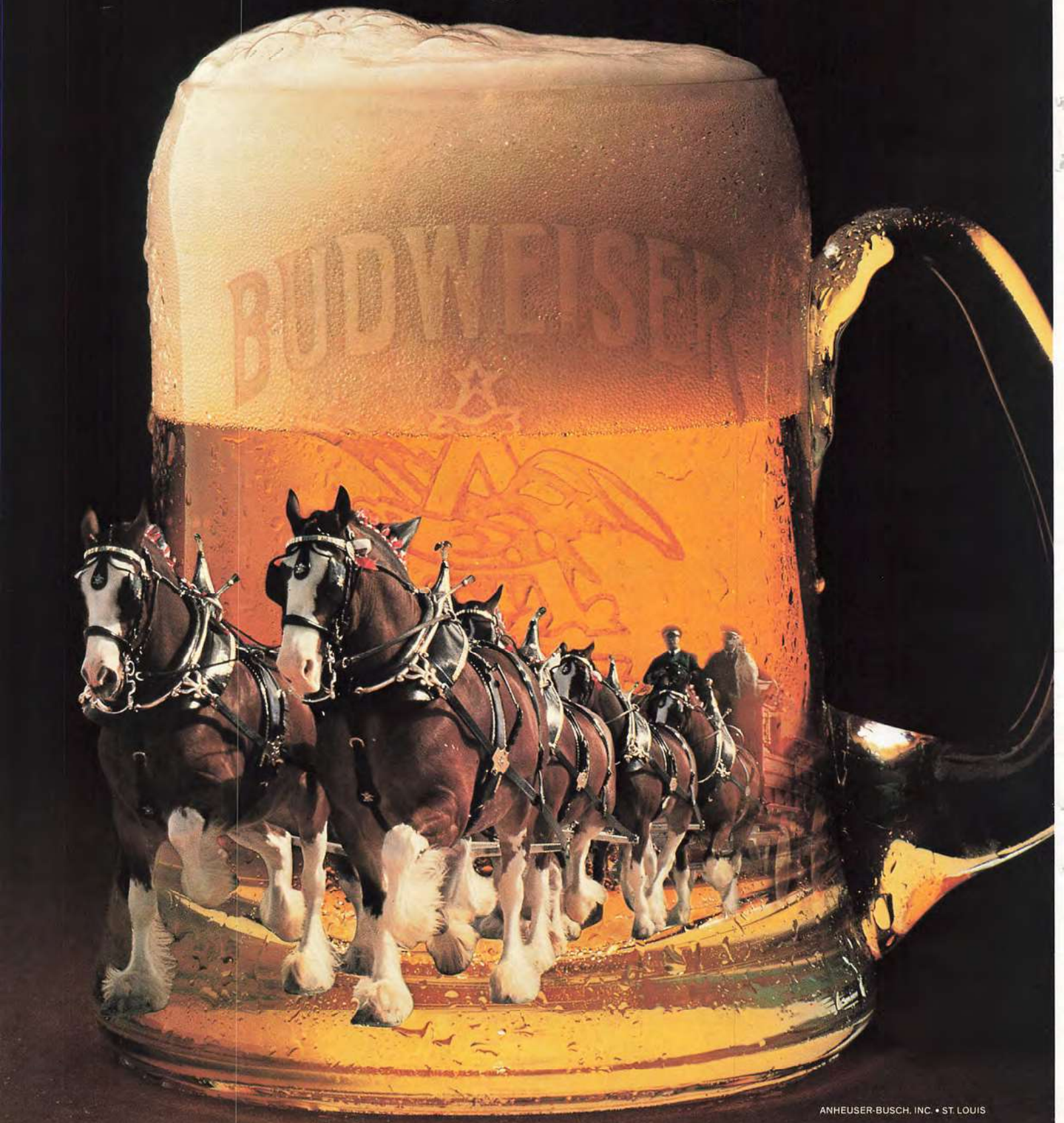

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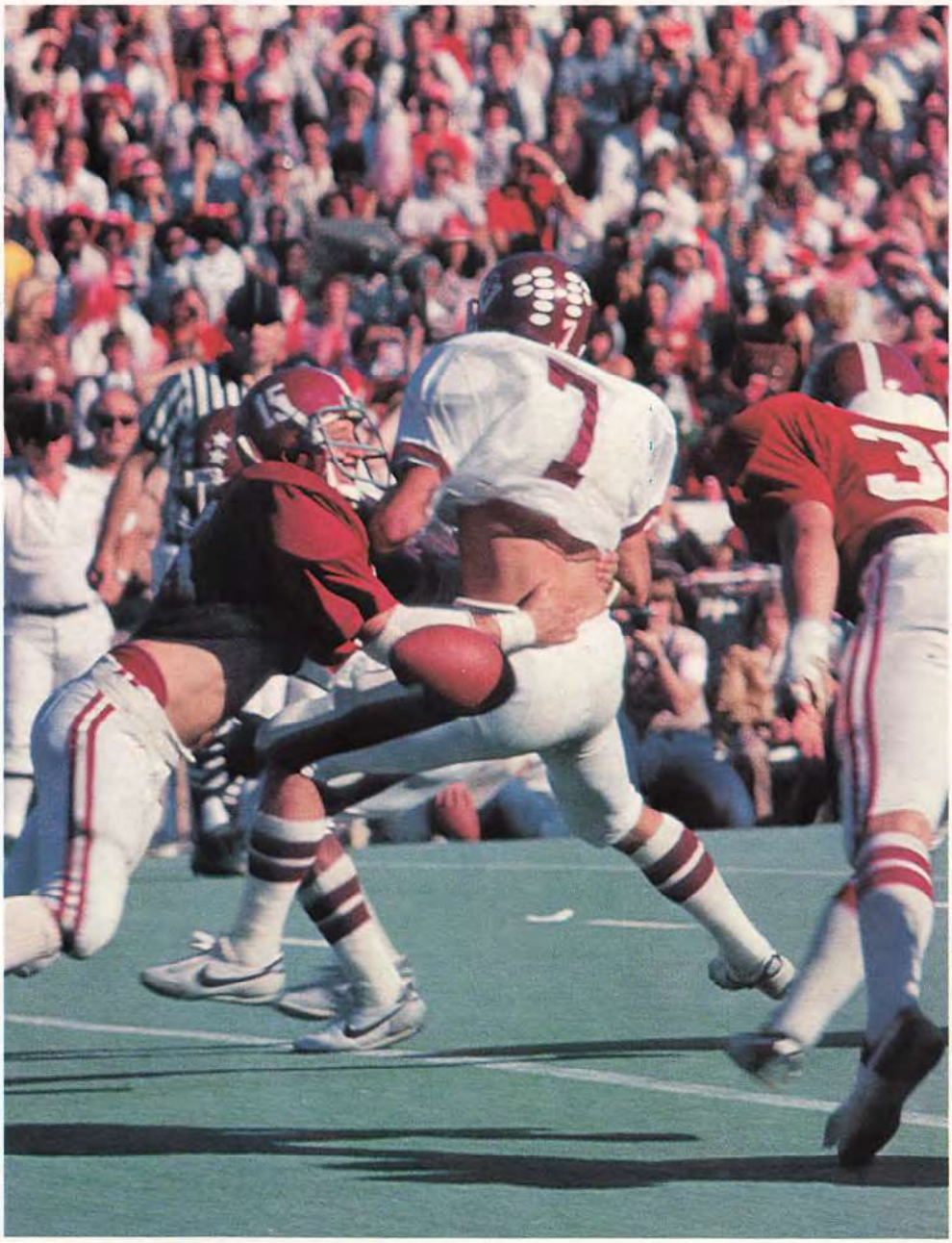
bably at Alabama or Ole Miss. I signed about a week later with Alabama and, of course, he signed about a week after that with Ole Miss."

Wilcox was told that Fourcade had told an Alabama staff member that if Bama signed Wilcox it would not affect Fourcade's decision. Fourcade said that he felt that Wilcox was an outstanding athlete who would end up playing in the secondary. Tommy laughed. "It's worked out well for both of us, I guess," says Tommy. "He's doing well at quarterback and I'm happy in the secondary. I started at strong safety as a freshman in high school. After that, I was the starting quarterback, but every year when we got to the state playoffs I would play in the secondary, too. I knew when I came to Alabama that I would play either at quarterback or in the secondary."

Tommy didn't have much trouble deciding on Alabama. "Recruiters would come in with an Alabama roster and tell me that with all the talent at Alabama I might never get to play," he remembers. "That was a slam on my competitiveness. I felt that I could play at Alabama. And, more important, I knew that if I could make it at Alabama I could make it anywhere.

"We have great facilities at Alabama, but nearly everywhere I went when I was being recruited had great facilities," he adds. "The difference is the intangible things at Alabama, like tradition and team attitude. And, of course, no where else has coach Bryant.

"I just don't see how you could pick a better place."★



Although Tommy grew up as a quarterback and thus attempted to stay out of the contact part of football, it didn't take long for him to find out that in college it is as much fun to give as it is to receive.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

CRIMSON GALLERY →

Here Comes Help

From little league to the pros, coaches teach running backs to fight for that little bit extra yardage. But, against Alabama, opposing runners have found that it is often a lot easier physically to hit the ground after that first lick because more licks are sure to follow. Here, linebacker Thomas Boyd attempts to bring down a Mississippi State runner as teammates Gary DeNiro (51), Byron Braggs (47), Curtis McGriff (96) and Wayne Hamilton (84) move in for the kill.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

47

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Don Gambril:

More Than Just A Swimming Coach

by Laurie Kiely

The alarm rings . . . it is 5:00 a.m. . . . up jumps Don Gambril . . . ready to begin a day of what he loves most and perhaps does better than anyone in the world . . . ready to begin a day of coaching the swimmers at the University of Alabama.

Dedicated, motivated, inspirational, hard-working, winner, expert, family-man, all those adjectives have been used to describe this symbol of Alabama swimming.

Since his arrival on the Tuscaloosa campus seven years ago, head Crimson Tide swimming coach Don Gambril has developed the Tide into one of the most powerful swimming contingents in the nation. His overall coaching record stands at 142-16 including a 60-6 Alabama tally going into the 1979-80 season.

Highlighted by a 1977 second place finish in the NCAA National Championships, Gambril's swimmers have finished among the top eight teams in the country over the past five years. During those years he has coached four national champions, 20 Southeastern Conference champs and over 30 All-Americas.

Although Gambril has successfully developed top international and national performers, he also maintains a realization of every individual swimmer's potential.

"I set my goals in a fashion so I can best develop national and Olympic competitors," comments Gambril. "I realize that everyone does not have the ability to become such a swimmer so I focus on personal potential. I set team goals as well as individual goals."

Every year before the season begins Gambril has personal conference with his swimmers to discuss their individual and team potential. He considers all that a team member can offer to the Tide and what in turn Alabama can offer the swimmer. As a result of these conferences the head coach is able to form a pretty good idea of how the team will fair in the coming season.

Swimming is not like other sports where "on any given day any team can win or lose." Swim coaches can study the times of their swimmers and the times of their competitors and get a clear picture of what the season will bring.

"Each season we set goals, but they are always realistic," says Gambril. "When we go into a meet we usually know where we will pick up points. When the times are close we know that may be the difference between a win or loss."

Although Gambril is a easy-going guy, his swim program is quite the opposite. He stresses discipline, hard work and positive attitudes. This dedication to perfection is evidence in the outstanding performances he has produced.

"Coach Gambril is one of the biggest motivators in the world," says Bob Bugg, a graduated Alabama All-America. "He expects his swimmers to give 100 percent and he returns the effort. He has passed on to me the determination and the desire to excel in everything I do."

The Alabama head coach gives his all to the program. He arrives at the pool deck at 6 a.m. each morning and does not head home until after 6 p.m. Weekends are often spent on the road lecturing throughout the country. However, winning is not all he instills in his swimmers. Gambril shows concern for all aspects of the athlete's life.

Perhaps one of the most successful swimmers under coach Gambril is Jonty Skinner, who now serves as an assistant coach at Alabama. Skinner was Alabama's first national champion in any sport. In 1975 he captured the NCAA Championship in the 100-yard freestyle and currently holds the World record for the same event.

"While I was a swimmer under coach Gambril I looked to him with respect as a motivator and a guide. He served as not only an excellent coach but as a parental image," says Skinner. "When a young man arrives at college he has a lot to think about because everything is so new. Coach takes it upon himself to help his swimmers maintain a good personal image of themselves in all phases in life."

The inspiration Gambril gave Skinner, the swimmer, helped develop him into one of the best swimmers in the world and now Skinner, the coach, is certain that Gabril will lead him to laurels in his new endeavors.

"Everyday I learn something from watching coach Gambril. I used to watch him from the pool and now I observe him from the deck. While I am in his surroundings I can see what the difference is between a coach and a 'great coach,' " offers Skinner. "When I move on I know I'll continue to be loyal to him as a coach and a friend. I can't imagine what it would be like to face him as an opposing coach; that would be tough."

Coach Gambril's assistants have gone on to various head coaching positions. Some of those positions include; Skip Kenny-Stamford, Ron Bailatore-UCLA, Dick Jochums-Arizona and Gary Illman-Colorado State University.

"Don Gambril is a man who always gives. While I coached with him he was always honest with me and gave me equal authority so I could learn," says Bailatore. "He knows how to handle athletes and respects them. People return this respect and I have always considered him an excellent coach and friend. Our teams meet at the NCAAs but I hold my respect and friendship above the competition."

Stanford's Kenny echoes these sentiments. "Don Gambril is a very special person to me. Before I met him I was an underachiever and today I find myself striving to overachieve," reflects Kenny. "Besides being any excellent coach he is a concerned, caring person. He is a great family man which sometimes is not the case when you are so dedicated to your profession. Another unique quality in coach Gambril is his knowledge, interest and involvement in all sports."

Although coaching swimming may be Gambril's lifeblood, he in no way confines his spirit and enthusiasm to the pool deck. A devote family-man, Gambril and his wife Teddy make it a family affair to go to all the home Alabama football and basketball games. His interest in Alabama as a whole is amplified by the fact that his daughter Kim recently graduated from Alabama, his son Troy is a freshman at Alabama and his youngest son Greg, an

eigth grader, is a die-hard Crimson Tide fan.

"Going to Alabama football and basketball games has become a form of family recreation. The family gets involved and I want my swimmers to get involved in the whole athletic program," says Gambril. Gambril's efforts seem to be working. At the nationally televised Alabama-Mami football game, a block of Tide swimmers displayed a banner which read, "Alabama Swimmers Say ROLL TIDE!!"

Gambril is also involved in Alabama athletics as director of the Alabama Sports Camp and he recently took over head coaching duties of the Crimson Tide women's swimming team.

Before Gambril came to Alabama he had already collected numerous honors for his coaching abilities. He started his career as the highly successful coach of the Los Angeles City of Commerce Swimming Team in the early 60s. In 1964 he was honored as Coach of the Year by *American Swimmer* magazine.

Gambril entered the college coaching ranks in 1965 as head coach at Pasadena City College. That same year he was named coach of the year by the American Swimming Coaches Association. In his two years at Pasadena, the team developed into one of the strongest junior college forces in the nation boasting a 19-3 dual meet record.

In 1967 Gambril assumed direction of the swimming team at Long Beach State University where his teams recorded a three-year tally of 48-3. In 1976 Long Beach State won the NCAA College Division Championship and finished fifth in both '68 and '69 in the University Division Championships.

Then in 1971 it was on to the Ivy League and Harvard where Gambril brought a remarkable reversal of the swimming program in just two years. Gambril's Harvard team notched a 14-4 dual meet record, defeated Yale for the first time in 11 years, were co-champs of the Eastern Inter-collegiate Swimming League and finished 15th in the NCAA Championships.

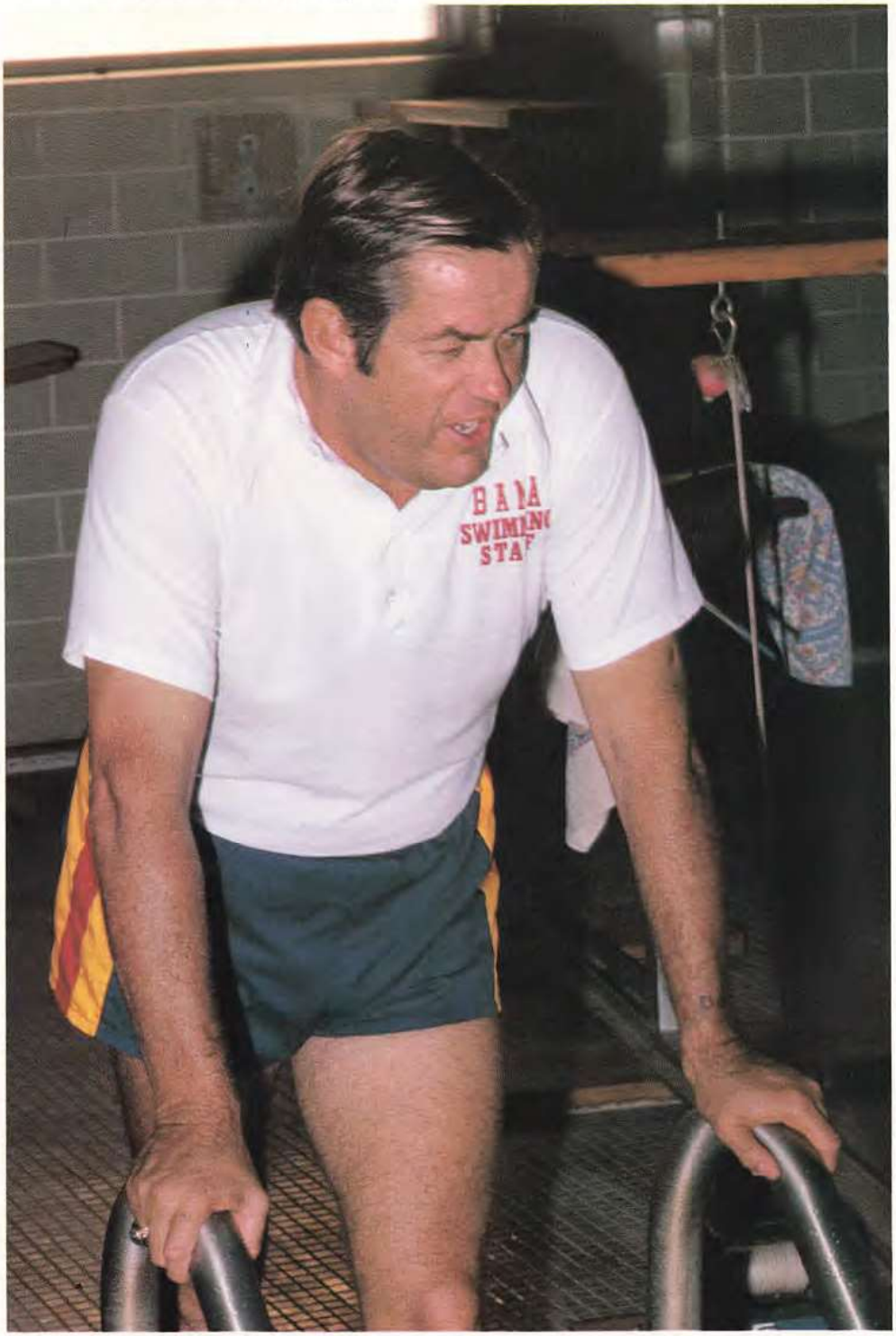
"While I was at Harvard I took a trip to Alabama to see the Mississippi State-Alabama football game. I was incredibly impressed with Coach Bryant, with the whole athletic program, the team attitude and the morale of the students. I told head swimming coach John Foster that if there was ever an opening, I would love to come to Alabama," explains Gambril.

It just so happened that Foster stepped down from the helm that spring and Gambril was a prime candidate for the vacated position.

"Coming to Alabama was like a dream come true. The Southeastern Conference level of competition was just what I always wanted. The University's athletic reputation is superb," adds Gambril. "My family and I have loved everything about Alabama and Tuscaloosa."

The SEC has always been and remains one of two of the toughest conferences in the nation. Although 'Bama swimmers have never won an SEC championship (a personal Gambril goal) they have maintained their position among the top four. In last year's NCAA nationals, among the top ten finishers, four hailed from the SEC, three from the PAC 10 and two came from the Big 10.

Gambril's coaching expertise has extended from the collegiate level to the international arena. The honor of Assistant United States Olympic Coach has been bestowed upon him on four occassions. He served as Olympic Coach in Mexico City in 1968, in Munich in '72 and at Montreal in 1976. Gambril will serve for the fourth time this summer as he travels to Moscow for the 1980 Olympics. He also was a member of the U.S. coaching staff



Coach Gambril has been chosen as an assistant swim coach for the 1980 Olympics, his fourth time to be chosen to that position.

Joel Barnes Photo

at the 1978 World Games, the World Student Games, the World Military Games and has coached U.S. athletes in Russian and Polish events.

"Just as reaching the Olympics in the height of a swimmer's career, it is the height if a coach's career," comments Gambril. "Other coaches vote on who is to be on the Olympic coaching team so the appointment brings with it a great deal of prestige and satisfaction."

Through the years Gambril-coached swimmers have set over 20 world records, earned 10 Olympic goal medals, received four Olympic silver medals and have competed in the World Championship and Pan American Game teams.

Coach Gambril, a pioneer in a number of training techniques including short-rest interval conditioning, is a popular and greatly admired speaker at clinics. He has lectured extensively in the United States, Canada, Latin America and Europe. His disciplined use of training techniques, which include weight training, sophisticated stretching exercises, and individually tapered water work-outs, has aided in the production of competitive swimmers.

Sophomore Arne Borgstrom, an Alabama All-America his freshman year and a Scandanavian National Champion, attests to the effectiveness of the Gambril training program. "Since I started swimming under coach Gambril I can see myself developing quickly," says Borgstrom. "The weight program has helped me tremendously. I work with weights three times a week and it seems that I keep on swimming faster and faster."

Next year Gambril and his swimming program will be aided by a new swimming and diving complex. The complex, scheduled to be completed in the summer of '80, will house a 50-meter by 25-yard Olympic swim course. Divers will have use of two one-meter boards, two three-meter boards, and five-meter tower and a 10-meter tower. The new complex will have a seating complex of approximately 2,500.

"The new facility will definitely help our program, it will be one of the three best complexes in the conference," states Gambril. "It will help in training, will be a recruiting ploy, and will provide more room for spectators."

With a list of achievements as long as Coach Gambril's there have been many highlights.

"My career has been very exciting and there isn't any one instance that stands out above the rest. Some of the high points include the successful dual meet records, the 1976 upset of Tennessee after losing to them 85 straight times, watching Jonty Skinner bring home Alabama's first national championship and the 1977 second place finish in the NCAA's," reflects Gambril. "I have found gratification at all different levels of competition. Sometimes watching a young swimmer who reaches his potential and sees his dreams come true is the biggest thrill of coaching for me."

Coach Gambril's training procedures, including his one-on-one relationship with his swimmers, have been copied worldwide. Here he discusses potential with Bob Ramoska.

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THE SUGAR BOWL— NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Record: Won 6, Lost 3

1945—Duke 29, Alabama 26
1948—Texas 20, Alabama 7
1962—Alabama 10, Arkansas 3
1964—Alabama 12, Ole Miss 7
1967—Alabama 34, Nebraska 7
1973—Notre Dame 24, Alabama 23
1975—Alabama 13, Penn State 6
1978—Alabama 35, Ohio State 6
1979—Alabama 14, Penn State 7

THE ROSE BOWL— PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Record: Won 4, Lost 1, Tied 1

1926—Alabama 20, Washington 19
1927—Alabama 7, Stanford 7
1931—Alabama 24, Washington State 0
1935—Alabama 29, Stanford 13
1938—California 13, Alabama 0
1946—Alabama 34, Southern Cal 14

THE ORANGE BOWL— MIAMI, FLORIDA

Record: Won 4, Lost 3

1943—Alabama 37, Boston College 21
1953—Alabama 61, Syracuse 6
1963—Alabama 17, Oklahoma 0
1965—Texas 21, Alabama 17
1966—Alabama 39, Nebraska 28
1972—Nebraska 38, Alabama 6
1975—Notre Dame 13, Alabama 11

THE COTTON BOWL— DALLAS, TEXAS

Record: Won 1, Lost 3

1942—Alabama 29, Texas A&M 21
1954—Rice 21, Alabama 6
1968—Texas A&M 20, Alabama 16
1973—Texas 17, Alabama 13

THE LIBERTY BOWL— PHILADELPHIA & MEMPHIS

Record: Won 1, Lost 2

1959—Penn State 7, Alabama 0
1969—Colorado 47, Alabama 33
1976—Alabama 36, UCLA 6

THE ASTRO-BLUEBONNET BOWL—HOUSTON, TEXAS

Record: Won 0, Lost 0, Tied 2

1960—Alabama 3, Texas 3
1970—Alabama 24, Oklahoma 24

THE GATOR BOWL— JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Record: Won 0, Lost 1

1968—Missouri 35, Alabama 10

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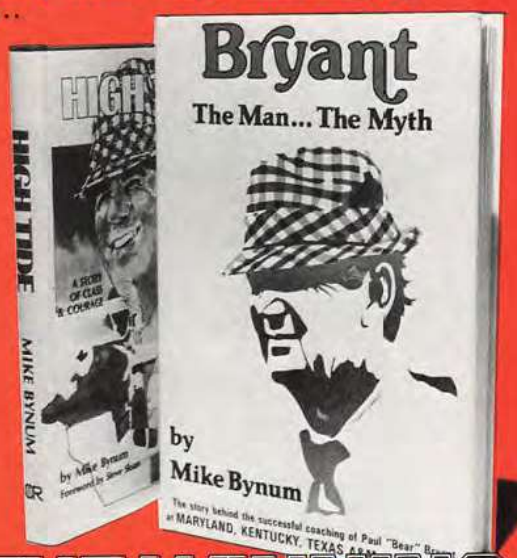

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Tide Opens With A Bang In Quest For Future Talent

by Kirk McNair

Coach Bryant was walking down the hall to his office in Memorial Coliseum the Sunday following the first day of prep signings to Southeastern Conference letters-of-intent December 8. "Coach," it was offered, "if your selection was good it looks like you had a great first day."

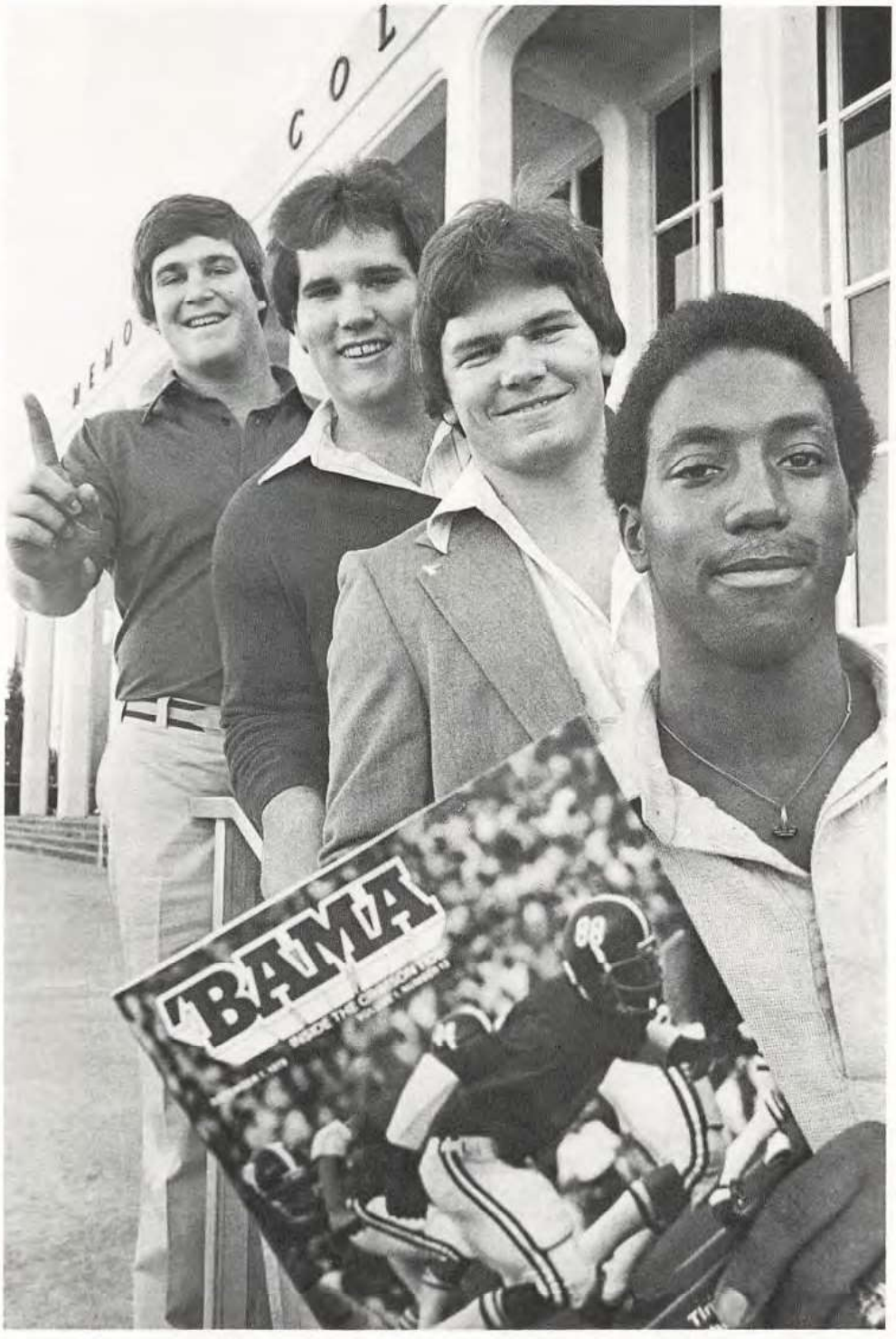
"I think that's right," coach Bryant agreed, "but our problem has been that our selection in the past hasn't been too good."

There's some room for argument considering the Crimson Tide record over the past seasons, but there is reason to believe that the class of 1984 (covering 1980-83 football seasons) may be one of the finest ever assembled. When the smoke had cleared from the first weekend the Tide had all but swept the state and plucked prized high school seniors from neighboring states.

'BAMA Magazine readers have already been given a glimpse of many of these signees in the preview article on prospects. However, here is a recap of the Tide newcomers, who must sign the national letter-of-intent on March 15. Alabama may sign up to 30 new footballers.

MIKE ADCOCK, Offensive and defensive tackle, 6-2, 243, Johnson high school, Huntsville, Alabama . . . Was named all-city three consecutive years and picked as the offensive player of the year. Bench presses 385. and runs a 4.8 40-yard dash. Also plays baseball. Coached by John Inman. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Webb.

JEFF BOHANNON, Defensive tackle, 6-6, 275, Litchfield high school, Gadsden, Alabama . . . Coached by former Tide player Steve Clay, Jeff had a fine senior season as he averaged nine tackles a game, with a single game high of 18 vs. Ft. Payne. Had one pass interception,



These four happy youngsters became the first University of Alabama signees of 1979 as they put their names on the dotted line at noon December 8. (Top to bottom) Doug Vickers, Jim Ivy, Andy Martin and Anthony Smiley all signed in Tuscaloosa.

—Haywood Paravicini, Birmingham News Photo

blocked five kicks, caused six fumbles, recovered four fumbles and 19 sacks for losses of 87 yards. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bohannon.

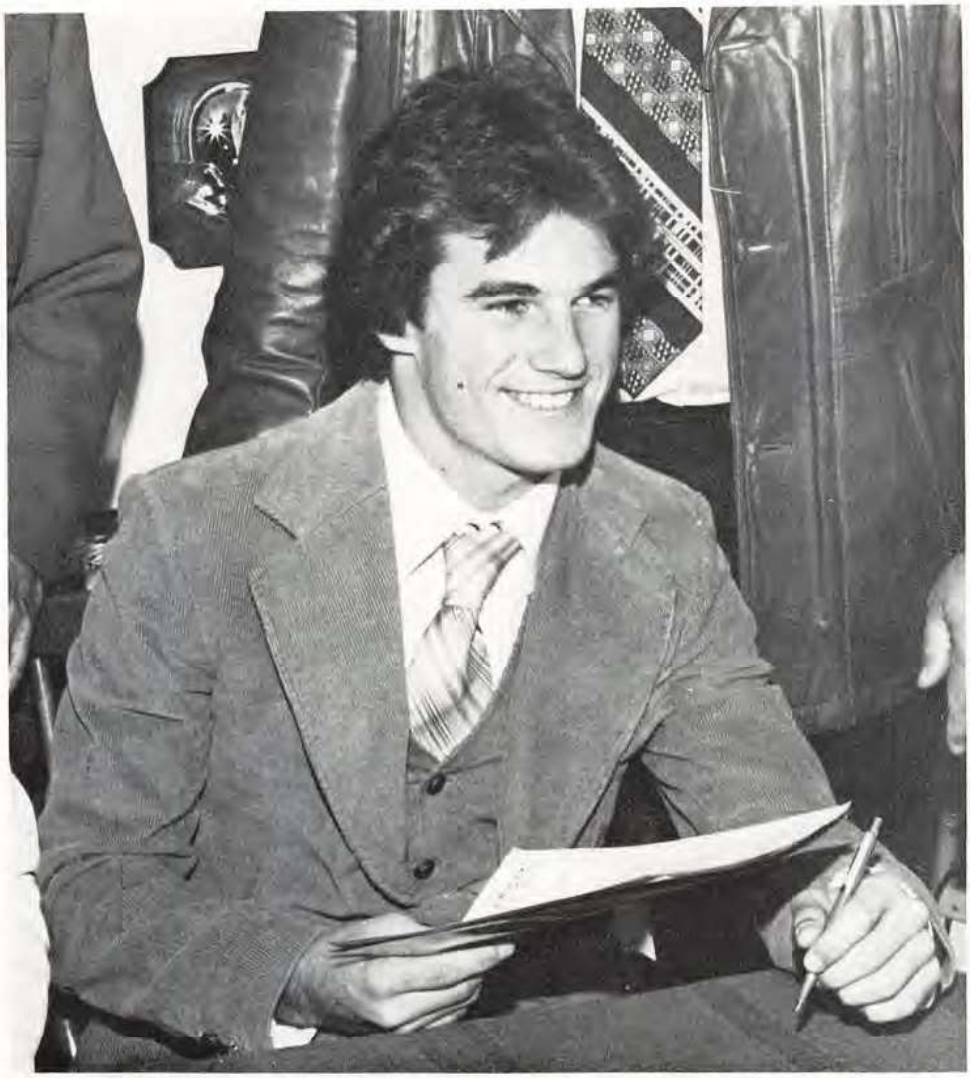
STEVE BOOKER, Linebacker and running back, 6-1½, 207, Butler high school, Huntsville, Alabama . . . Outstanding athlete who is a fine long jumper in track, placed fourth in wrestling in his section, and plays outstanding football. Has been timed in 4.5 in the 40-yard dash and bench presses over 300 pounds. Rushed for 134 yards in one game. Coach John Childress, who also coached Thomas Boyd, says Booker is in the same mold as Boyd. He had 17 individual tackles against Anniston this season.

DANTE BRAMBLETT, Linebacker, 6-2½, 214, Forest Park high school, Morrow, Georgia . . . Defensive player of the year in Clayton County, All-Metro Atlanta, Quad-A all-state, and also did the punting where he averaged 38.7. Made 127 tackles in 10 games, including a single game high of 27 against Fayette County. Made two interceptions, caused four fumbles, recovered three. Threw the discus and shot put in track. A three-year starter who was coached by Charlie Brown. Son of Mrs. Ricky Winn Bramblett.

JOE CARTER, Running back and defensive back, 5-11½, 174, Starkville high school, Starkville, Mississippi . . . Exceptional speed, having run the 100-yard dash in competition in 9.5. Gained over 100 yards a game this year and had one game of 230 yards. Was the MVP on his team and all-conference. All-State teams have not been selected yet. Coached by Dave Owens. He is the son of Mrs. Lulu D. Carter.

BRUCE DAVIS, Defensive tackle, 6-3, 235, Jesuit high school, New Orleans, Louisiana . . . His coach, Bill Murphy, called Davis "The best lineman in the state." He was named to at least one high school All-America team and widely recruited by the nation's top teams.

CHARLES "CHUCKY" FIELDS, Quarterback, 6-1, 178, Marengo Academy, Linden, Alabama . . . This outstanding athlete played quarterback, running back, linebacker, defensive end and defensive back at one time or another during his three years at Marengo Academy. He was a member of that school's 1977 private school championship and this year he led his team to an undefeated season. He rushed for 1,370 yards, passed for 926 yards while completing 68 percent of his attempts, and scored 158 points. He also stands out in basketball and baseball. He was a member of the Tuscalocsa News Super 11 team, all-state, all-district, best offensive back, MVP for his team, and a



Mobile speedster Joey Jones said he liked the fact that in a wishbone a split end like himself will be faced with constant man-to-man coverage. With 4.3 speed in the 40-yard dash, one can see why he feels that way.

—Mobile Press Register Photo

member of the North all-stars. His uncle, Dean Watson, played baseball for the Baltimore Orioles. Coached by Ricky Herzog, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buster Fields.

PAUL FIELDS, Quarterback-defensive back, 6-0, 185, Gardendale high school, Gardendale, Alabama . . . Two-time all-state, Top 10 list, led team to state playoffs three times, and a three-year starter in basketball. Rushed for over 1,000 yards and scored 12 touchdowns as a junior. Missed three games as a senior with a broken wrist, but had over 500 yards rushing and scored five times. Completed 55 percent of his passes, and averaged 35 yards on punting. Coached by Ed Bruce. Son of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Fields.

JAY GROGAN, Back, 6-2, 205, Pell City high achool, Cropwell, Alabama . . . Outstanding all-around athlete who can play several positions. Was an outstanding runner under coach Gene Ellison. Also plays baseball, where he is a pro prospect. Is vice-president of the Spanish Club, member of the Key Club and Student Council. Jay's father Gerald played one year at Jacksonville State and is coaching at Minor high in Birmingham.

MARCUS HILL, Linebacker, 6-2, 205, Dothan high school, Dothan, Alabama . . . His coach, Phillip Creel, says Hill reminds him of LeeRoy Jordan. "He has quickness and speed like LeeRoy," says Creel. Hill averaged 19 individual tackles each game this past season. He was all-state, all-area, and the area player of the year. Had his best game of the season against Enterprise, which went on to win the 4A state championship. Son of Mrs. Richard Hill.

JIM IVY, Offensive and defensive tackle, 6-4, 260, Huffman high school, Birmingham, Alabama . . . Played both ways for coach Jerry Partridge, and also plays baseball and basketball. Comes from a high school program that has produced a number of top collegiate players. His father, the late Jim Ivy Sr., played football at Alabama in 1948 and 1949. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bruce.

JOEY JONES, Split end 5-10, 162, Murphy high school, Mobile, Alabama . . . Con-

sidered the best reciever in Alabama, has exceptional speed, having been timed in 6.03 in the 60-yard dash in track and has done 4.3 in the 40 (at a Florida State University football camp). Caught 32 passes for 704 yards and five touchdowns, including a single game best of five catches for 170 yards and two touchdowns against Bay Minette. Jocy's uncle, Earl "Bama" Smith played for coach Bryant at Texas A&M. In addition to football, Jones was a standout in both track and baseball at Murphy, where he was coached by Robert Shaw. He is the son of Mrs. Mary S. Thompson.

JERRY LAMBERT, Linebacker, 6-3, 225, Robinson high school, Tampa, Florida . . . led his team in tackles and was a three-year starter and captain. Also won letters in baseball. He's active in the FCA and is president of the Key Club. Coached by Jim Hadley. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lambert Sr., his father being a former Crimson Tide lineman (1952-56).

WALTER LEWIS, Quarterback, 6-0, 182, T.R. Miller high school, Brewton, Alabama . . . The 1A-2A All-State quarterback. Lewis is an excellent runner and has a strong passing arm and is also an exceptional kicker, having averaged over 44 yards per punt this year. He lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track and runs a 4.7 40-yard dash. Played for coach Frank Cotten. He plans to major in Engineering. As an eight-year-old in 1970, Walter won the National Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

ANDY MARTIN, Quarterback, 6-3, 205, Muscle Shoals high school, Muscle Shoals, Alabama . . . Named to state's Top Ten list, was MVP at Muscle Shoals high. All-North Alabama and All-State. Rushed 58 times for 524 yards and eight touchdowns and completed 60 of 128 passes for 1,028 yards and eight touchdowns. Threw for 272 yards against Central on seven of 15 completions and had 242 yards passing against Deshler on 17 of 31. Rushed for 142 yards against Sheffield. Coached by C. T. Manley, who coached Ozzie Newsome, and Phil Gargis at Colbert County, who calls Martin a "bigger, quicker Phil Gargis." Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robbie Martin.

TOM McCRARY, Offensive and defensive tackle, 6-5, 243, Scottsboro high school, Scottsboro, Alabama . . . Averaged 10 tackles per game and had a single game high of 17 against Arab. He has finished third in the state prep wrestling championships the past two years. Coached by Larry Keys. The son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Boles.

SCOTT McRAE, Fullback and linebacker, 6-2, 200, Huntsville high school, Huntsville, Alabama . . . Rushed for 155 yards against Butler this season and has been a three-year starter for coach Paul Glover. Was all-city in Huntsville. Scott's grandfather, Roy W. Johnson, played football at the University of Michigan and later becaame coach and athletic director at the University of New Mexico.

LINNIE PATRICK, Running back, 5-9, 175, Walker County high school, Jasper, Alabama . . . Two-time All-America, probably greatest running back in state history, three-time All-State 4A, named outstanding player in Alabama as a junior and likely to repeat. Voted MVP in 4A playoffs as a sophomore. Gained 5,405 yards rushing in three years, including a 323-yard game against Berry this season when Berry was ranked the top team in the state. As a sophomore he gained 1,965 yards, then 1,765 as a junior and 1,675 this year as a senior. Averaged 7.2 yards per carry for his career. Scored 16 touchdowns this past season and 47 during his career. Led Walker County to state playoffs three straight years. Coached by David Campbell.

DARYL PURVINE, Linebacker, 6-0, 210, Campbell high school, Smyrna, Georgia . . . Versatile athlete who was the MVP on his high school team and an All-County selection. Was in on 189 tackles in 10 games, an average of 19 a game. Made over 20 tackles in four different games playing middle linebacker. Had one interception, two blocked kicks, caused four fumbles and recovered two. Did the punting anc averaged 38.9. Posted an 8-2 record as a baseball pitcher last spring. Coached by Conrad Harris. Daryl is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Purvine, Jr.

MIKE RODREGUEZ, Running back, 6-3, 227, Eau Gallie high school, Melbourne, Florida . . . one of the best running backs in Florida. Excellent blocker. Called by Coach Larry Canady "one of the finest backs I've ever seen. He runs with power and has 4.6 speed in the 40. He should make Alabama an outstanding player." Mike's father, Ramon Rodriguez, is a professional wrestler who presently is wrestling in Japan.

KURT SCHMISSRAUTER, Offensive tackle, 6-3, 235, Notre Dame high school, Chattanooga, Tennessee . . . All-State and named the top defensive lineman in his area. Also played on the prep golf team which won the city championship. Coached by Jack Cremer. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schmissrauter Jr.

ANTHONY SMILEY, Fullback and linebacker, 6-1, 210, Pinson Valley high school, Birmingham, Alabama . . . One of the strongest players in high school athletics, bench presses nearly 400 pounds. Was Most Valuable Player at Pinson Valley under coach Jim Currier, All-State, All-County, and rushed 191 times for 986 yards and eight touchdowns. Had four touchdowns against Mortimer Jordan. Also wrestles and throws the shot put and discus in track. Comes from same program that produced Bama middle guard Warren Lyles. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Smiley.

ALAN UNDERWOOD, Defensive tackle and tight end, 6-4, 247, Deshler high school, Tuscumbia, Alabama . . . averaged 11 tackles per game and his top single game effort was 16 tackles, including two quarterback sacks, against Bradshaw. All-State and listed on the state's Top Ten list. Won this year's state heavyweight wrestling championship, the second straight year he has taken the title in 3A. Coached by Jimmy Lockett. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Hites.

DOUG VICKERS, Offensive tackle, 6-2½, 235, Enterprise high school, Enterprise, Alabama . . . Member of State 4A championship team, and rated by many as the top lineman in Alabama. Two time all-state selection, bench presses 365 pounds. Also plays on the basketball team. Member and secretary-treasurer of the Key Club. Coached by Bill Bacon. Son of Dr. and Mrs. Windell Vickers.

MIKE WHITE, Lineman, 6-3, 230, Southwest DeKalb high school, Decatur, Georgia . . . Pre-season all-state selection who missed part of the season with an injury, but came back strong and has made all-county and picked as one of the top 20 offensive linemen in state. Named Lineman of the Week for his play against Peachtree high when he graded out 95 percent. Also plays baseball and is a member of Beta Club. Coached by Alan Fahring. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. White.

JIMMY WATTS, Running back, 6-1½, 200, Gulf Breeze high school, Gulf Breeze, Florida . . . a 4.7 man in the 40, Watts has been a star since the ninth grade when he broke the school record with 37 pass receptions and was named the school's Offensive Player of the Year. He ran for 233 yards and scored twice in earning MVP in the 1978 Optimist Bowl. He runs back kicks and also plays free safety. He was captain of both his football and basketball teams. He was coached by Corky Newman.

LLOYD WOFFORD, Linebacker and offensive lineman, 6-3, 215, Druid Hills high school, Atlanta, Georgia . . . Played both ways for coach Tommy Stringer, and was a DeKalb County all-star, MVP of his team, and also a shot putter and discus thrower in track. His cousin, Kenny Deaton, played at Alabama in 1967. Has outstanding speed.

Alabama's First National Championship

by Mike Bolton

There will be plenty of fond memories for Paul W. Bryant when his Alabama team clashes with Arkansas January 1 in the Sugar Bowl for what might prove to be his sixth overall and second in a row national championship.

Strangely, it was against Arkansas in the January 1, 1962 Sugar Bowl that coach Bryant first realized his dream of an undefeated team and a national championship.

People talk about coaches turning a program around in the right direction, but history tells us that no one has ever been so successful as coach Bryant was in his return to his alma mater in 1958.

Coach Bryant took a team that had gone 2-7-1 the year before and with his first senior class produced a national champion.

Bryant's return caused excitement in the state. His first squad produced a 5-4-1 record, the second a 7-2-2 mark and the first bowl appearance by the Tide in six years and the third a hefty 8-1-2 mark.

Both Denny Stadium and Legion Field were being enlarged for the 1961 season and Alabama was ranked as high as the Number 4 team in the nation in preseason polls. It was going to be an interesting season, fans thought.

Iowa was the top ranked team going into the season in most polls, with Ole Miss following. Ohio State was third and the Crimson Tide fourth.

A near loss by Iowa in the third week put Ole Miss No. 1, but Georgia Tech moved ahead of Alabama into third.

Meanwhile, Alabama was steamrolling over opponents. Georgia fell 32-6, Vanderbilt 35-6 and Tulane 9-0 as quarterback Pat Trammell was named the SEC's most valuable player three weeks in a row.

With players like LeeRoy Jordan, Mike Fracchia, Bill Oliver, Billy Neighbors, and

Alabama quarterback Pat Trammell was voted Southeastern Conference player of the week three weeks in a row as Alabama jumped to a 3-0 record and pollsters began to take notice.

Sugar Bowl MVP Mike Fracchia didn't let little trivial matters like a broken nose and thundershowers keep him from enjoying the Crimson Tide's national championship parade that was attended by thousands.

Trammell leading the way, Alabama held that fourth-place spot with big wins over Tennessee, Houston and Mississippi State. It was after the State game that the Tide got the big break.

Minnesota upset Michigan State who had slid into the Number 1 spot and LSU stunned Number 2 Ole Miss 10-6. Texas moved to first, but Alabama was close on the Longhorns' tails. Alabama had to win the rest of the and hope for a slip-up by Texas.

Bowl talk was beginning to drift in regularly as 'Bama stunned Richmond 66-0, and the next week found Alabama in the bowl driver's seat as Number 1 Texas was stunned by Texas Christian 6-0. Alabama was the only unbeaten major college team and Tide fans were loving it.

Alabama accepted the Sugar Bowl bid with Auburn remaining and the 34-0 rout over the Tigers proviced coach Bryant his perfect regular season. The same week, Number 10 Arkansas blasted SMU, defeater of Number 1 Texas, 21-7 and accepted the Sugar Bowl invitation opposite Alabama.

Alabama was named the top team in the nation by United Press International, Associated Press and by the McArthur Bowl committee after the Auburn game, but Bryant told his players it would take a win over Arkansas to be truly convincing.

Alabama set up bowl training camp the day after Christmas in Biloxi, Mississippi and went to work. A frightening virus put 19 players into the bed the first day, then rainy weather kept all players off the field for the next two days. But when game time came, Alabama was ready.

There was no doubt who the best team in the nation was on Alabama's opening possession. Fracchia quickly sprinted 43 yards to the Arkansas 12, then Trammell carried over on the next play. Tim Davis added the point after.

Alabama was about to get some pretty big scares before the day was over, however.

The first came late in the second when Arkansas' Paul Dudley raced 38 yards to the Tide 10 to give the Razorbacks first down and goal. Three plays netted no yards, however and the field goal was missed.

Davis added another field goal to make it 10-0.

A Billy Richardson fumble on the Alabama 32 gave the Razorbacks another chance, but three plays netted just a few yards and the field goal attempt was blocked.

A Trammell fumble in the third period set up Arkansas' only score of the day as the visiting team couldn't cross the goal with first down at the 10 and had to settle for a 23-yard field goal.

With two minutes to play Arkansas gave the Tide as much as it could handle. A desperation pass resulted in an interference call and an Arkansas first down on the Tide 40. It was then, coach Bryant told reporters, "Then we did what a national championship team had to do."

Fracchia broke up a desperation pass in the end zone and Butch Wilson, who had committed the pass interference, broke up another on second down. Wilson completely redeemed himself on the next play when he intercepted the pass and was knocked out of bounds at the Tide four-inch line.

Fracchia finished the day as the game's leading rusher with his 123 yards and was named the most valuable player in the game.

The Alabama defense held Arkansas to just seven first downs and 113 yards rushing and allowed the Razorbacks to complete only two-of-12 passes.

Alabama was a national champion and no one in the country was second-guessing the polls.

BAMA SCORECARD

Scott Leads

Senior guard Robert Scott leads the Alabama basketball team in scoring as the Crimson Tide heads into Wednesday's game against the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He has averaged 17.0 points per game in the Tide's five outings.

Junior forward Ken Johnson follows with a 15-0 average and forward Eddie Phillips trails him with an even 14.0 average.

Sophomore Carl Mitchell leads the squad in field goal accuracy after hitting 11 of 19 attempts while Scott follows with a .569 mark on 33 baskets in 58 attempts. Johnson fills out the top three with a .544 average after hitting 37 shots in 68 attempts.

In free throw accuracy, Scott has hit 19 in 25 attempts for a .760 mark, but after that the squad takes a sizable drop. Center Phillip Lockett has hit four of seven attempts for .571 average. As a whole, the Alabama squad is shooting .542 from the free throw line.

Scott also leads the team in assists with 20 and in a surprise, substitute Mike Davis follows with 12 to be the only player other than Scott to have double-digit assists.

Phillips is easily the rebounding leader as he grabbed 58 for an 11.6 average per game. Lockett follows in that category with 8.4 per game and Johnson falls in third with 5.6 per contest.

In dubious achievements, Scott leads in turnovers with 15, while Phillips follows with 11. Lockett leads the team in fouls and has been disqualified in three of the five Tide games.

As a team, Alabama has outscored opponents 400-344, outrebounded them 221-175, out-assisted them 60-42 and has blocked 13 shots to the enemy's seven.

Alabama is shooting 80.0 from the field while opponents are shooting 68.8 and from the free-throw line is shooting .542 to the enemy's .622.

Bama is 4-1, including 1-0 in SEC play after a surprisingly easy 90-68 victory over Vanderbilt.

Houlberg Signs

Alabama lost an assistant baseball coach last week and everyone that knew him was glad to see him go.

What?

Steve Houlberg, the likable shortstop and team captain of the 1979 Alabama baseball team, was to serve as an assistant Tide coach this season, but instead has signed professionally.

The Detroit Tigers, who are hurting for shortstops throughout their organization, came to the University recently to give Houlberg a tryout. After a brief workout they signed him on the spot.

The Miami-Dade junior college transfer hit .310 and .312 in his two seasons at Alabama, but it was his defense that caught the Tigers' eyes. He was the main cog last season as Alabama demolished the old team record of 28 double plays with 59 in 51 games.

Houlberg is scheduled to report to the Tigers' camp in Florida for spring training.

Minnesota Fats and Willie Masconi? Hardly. Here Alabama All-America Jim Bunch and Arkansas All-America Greg Kolenda battle it out in bumper pool during free time for the members of Kodak All-America team. The two offensive lineman will meet again January 1 in the Sugar Bowl.

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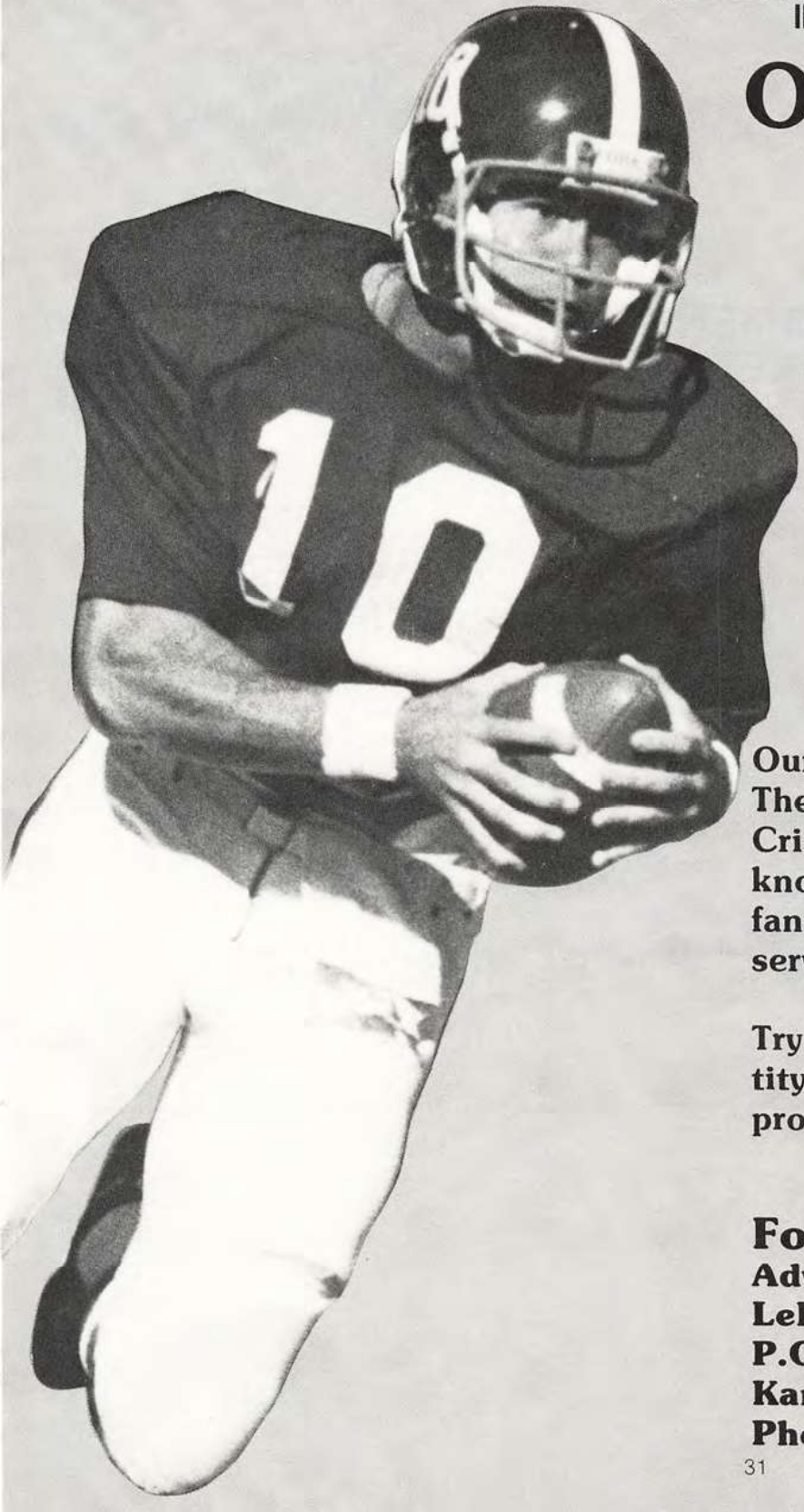

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

N. 30 Maine (76-59)
D. 3 LaSalle (80-82)
D. 4 Northeastern (88-73)
D. 8 @Wisconsin (66-62)
D. 15 Vanderbilt (90-68)
D. 19 @Tennessee
D. 21 Georgia Tech @ Roanoke, Va.
D. 22 Virginia Tech or Miami, O.
D. 28 @ El Paso, St. Louis
D. 29 Houston, UTEP
J. 2 @ Miss. State
J. 5 Ole Miss
J. 7 @ LSU (TV)
J. 12 @ Kentucky
J. 16 Georgia
J. 19 Florida (TV)
J. 23 @ Auburn
J. 26 Tennessee
J. 30 Miss. State (TV)
F. 2 @ Ole Miss
F. 6 LSU
F. 9 Kentucky (TV)
F. 11 @ Georgia (TV)
F. 16 @ Florida
F. 20 Auburn
F. 23 @ Vanderbilt (TV)
F. 27-M. 1 SEC Tourney

MEN'S SWIMMING

N. 15 @ North Carolina (67-45)
N. 16 @ North Carolina St. (36-77)
N. 30 Florida State (81-52)
D. 8 Ohio State (82-51)
J. 5 @ Princeton
J. 11 Missouri
J. 19 @ Auburn
J. 25 Tulane
J. 26 LSU
F. 2 Tennessee
F. 14-16 SIC @ Athens, Ga.
F. 23 Florida
M. 6-8 SEC @ Athens, Ga.
M. 27-29 NCAA @ Cambridge, Mass.

MEN'S TRACK

J. 19 Houston, FSU, LSU @ LSU
J. 26 @ NE Louisiana Inv.
F. 1-2 @ Indiana Inv.
F. 9 Texas A&M, Houston, Auburn, LSU @ LSU
F. 16 @ Montgomery Inv.
F. 29-M. 1 SEC @ LSU
M. 14-15 NCAA @Detroit

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

N. 27 Troy State (90-72)
N. 29 @ Oregon (73-94)
D. 1 @ Mississippi State (72-75)
D. 6 UAH (95-65)
D. 8 @ UAB (75-65)
D. 15 @ Alabama State (85-79)
J. 4-6 @ Miami Inv.
J. 7 @ Valdosta State
J. 10 Tenmnessee
J. 12 Florida State
J. 14 UAH
J. 17 UAB
J. 19 Florida
J. 23 @ Auburn
J. 26 Arkansas
J. 28 South Alabama
J. 30 South Carolina
F. 2 @ Ole Miss
F. 7-9 SEC @ Tennessee
F. 14 MUW
F. 16 LSU
F. 21-23 State Tourney
M. 6-9 Region Tourney @ Delta State
M. 20-22 National Tourney @ Central Michigan

WOMEN'S TRACK

J. 19 @ LSU & Houston, FSU
F. 9 @ LSU, Texas A&M, Houston, Auburn
F. 16 @ Montgomery Inv.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

N. 15 @ North Carolina (56-84)
N. 16 @ North Carolina St. (63-68)
N. 30 Florida State (59-72)
D. 8 Ohio State (78-53)
J. 11 Missouri
J. 19 @ Auburn
J. 25 Tulane
J. 26 LSU
F. 2 Tennessee
F. 13-15 SIC @ Athens, Ga.
F. 28-
M. 1 Region Meet
M. 20-22 National Meet @ Las Vegas

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

D. 8 Indiana (131.5-127.45)
J. 19 Auburn & ETSU
J. 26 Western Ken. & Texas A&M
F. 1 @ Memphis St.
F. 2 Southern Miss & Jeff State @ B'ham
F. 8 Louisville & Georgia @ Athens
F. 9 Duke & Georgia Col. @ Georgia College
F. 16 Jacksonville State
F. 23 @ Florida
M. 8 State Meet
M. 21-22 Region Meet

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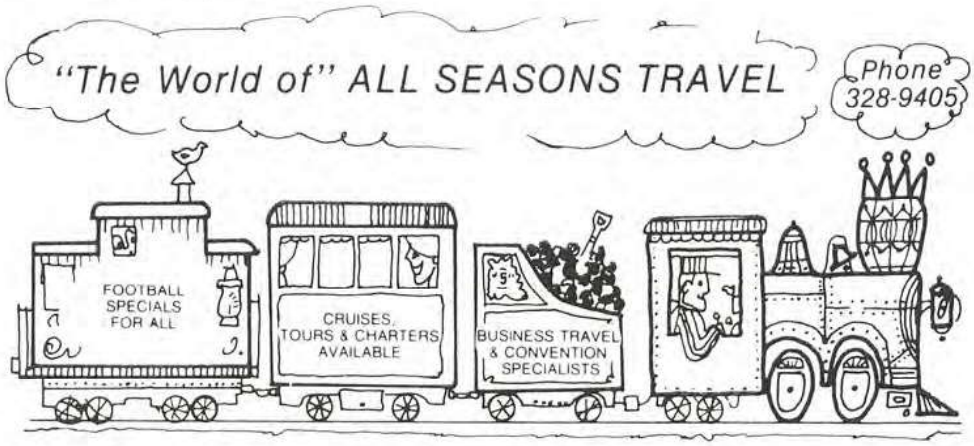
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